

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 25-42 are pending, with Claims 25, 26, 28, 29 and 34 amended by the present amendment.

In the Official Action, Claim 25 was objected to; the specification was objected to; Claims 28 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 25, 27, 36, 38-40 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Izumi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,725,977, hereinafter "Izumi") in view of Sagesaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,619,361, hereinafter "Sagesaka"); Claims 26-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Izumi and Sagesaka in view of Mankoff (U.S. Patent No. 6,385,591); and Claims 28-35 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Izumi, Sagesaka and Mankoff in view of Hollenberg (U.S. Patent No. 6,091,956).

Claims 25, 26, 28, 29 and 34 are amended to correct antecedent basis informalities. The specification is amended as requested in the Official Action. No new matter is added.

Claims 25-27 and 38-42 are directed to devices, systems and methods for game playing that promote social intercourse by motivating players who are prone to isolated behavior to venture into public for game features. For example, Claim 25 is directed to:

A service system, comprising:

a portable terminal device configured to execute a game program solely or in collaboration with another device, said portable terminal device including,

a portable terminal communication section configured to communicate with an external station,

a portable terminal storage section configured to store user personal game history information, game attribute and character information, and device service information, and

a portable terminal information management section configured to transmit the personal game history information, and receive the game attribute and character information and the device service information;

a processor mainframe including,

a main processor information exchange section configured to exchange game information with the portable terminal device, and

a main processor information management section configured to provide said game attribute and character information to the portable terminal in accordance with a predetermined parameter;

the external station including,

an external station communication section configured to communicate with the portable terminal device when the portable terminal device is within a predetermined proximity to the external station, receive the personal game history information transmitted from said portable terminal device and transmit the device service information to the portable terminal device, and

an external station distribution control section configured to control the distribution of the device service information to said portable terminal device according to the received game history information; and

a central service server configured to provide the device service information to the external station on the basis of the personal game history received by the external station from the portable terminal device.

Izumi describes a cartridge programming system having a host computer which communicates with controls a plurality of remote programming terminals. The terminals are able to load selected computer programs.

In rejecting independent Claims 25, 27, 38-40 and 42, the Official Action asserts that Izumi discloses Applicants' claimed external station. Applicants traverse. In Figure 1 of Izumi, the cartridge programming system 11 is controlled by a host computer 12. The host 12 can be any mini computer. Operation of host 12 is initiated by use of console 13. At best,

the host 12 corresponds to Applicants' main processor while the terminal in Izumi corresponds to Applicants' claimed portable terminal device. However, contrary to the Official Action, Izumi does not disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed external station. Thus, Izumi does not promote social intercourse by motivating players who are prone to isolated behavior to venture into public for game features. Sagesaka and Mankoff do not cure the deficiencies of Izumi.

Furthermore, in rejecting Claims 36, 39, 40 and 42, the Official Action asserts that Sagesaka discloses Applicants' claimed service server configured to distribute device service information to the external station. Applicants traverse because, while Sagesaka describes various transmitters and transmitter components, Sagesaka does not disclose or suggest a service server configured to distribute device service information to the external station.

Regarding independent Claims 26 and 41, Applicants acknowledge that Mankoff discloses coupon information. However, as noted above relative to independent Claims 25, 27, 38-40 and 42, Izumi, Sagesaka and Mankoff do not disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed external station.

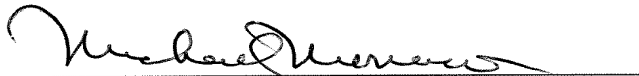
As none of the cited prior art, individually or in combination, discloses or suggests all the elements of independent Claims 25-27 and 38-42, Applicants submit the inventions defined by Claims 25-27 and 38-42, and all claims depending therefrom, are not rendered obvious by the asserted references for at least the reasons stated above.¹

¹ MPEP § 2142 "...the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest **all** the claim limitations.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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